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Letter dated 15 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government and with regard to note verbale dated 2 April 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council and circulated as document S/2015/232, and the letter dated 23 October 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and circulated as document S/2014/759, I have the honour to state the following:

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its full sovereignty over the Iranian islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb in the Persian Gulf, and underlines that the decisions with regard to and measures undertaken in those islands by Iranian officials have always been taken on the basis of the principles of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, the content of the aforementioned letter is deemed as interference in Iran's domestic affairs and is categorically rejected.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has always pursued a policy of friendship and good neighbourliness towards all its neighbouring countries and, in this context, once again expresses its readiness to engage in bilateral talks with the United Arab Emirates with a view to continuing to strengthen bilateral relations and removing any misunderstanding that may exist between the two countries. Meanwhile, it is obvious that the territorial integrity as well as the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran over the said islands are not negotiable.

I would also like to stress that "Persian Gulf" is the only true geographical designation for the body of water lying between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Arabian Peninsula, and has been in constant usage since the dawn of history. As all renowned ancient, middle and modern age geographers, historians and cartographers clearly testify, this sea area has always been identified as the Persian Gulf. It is also noteworthy that the United Nations and all of its agencies have always had the policy and practice of using the correct name, i.e., Persian Gulf, as the only geographical designation applicable to this body of water.

All of the above, as well as the imperative of standardization of geographical names, require that all parties respect the correct toponym for this sea area. Accordingly, the use of any other fabricated names for this body of water, including

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the one used in the above-mentioned letter, is not acceptable and must be discontinued.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative